NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1896.—COPYRIGHT, 1896, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

A POET IN HER 12TH YEAR.

SHE BEGAN WRITING VERSES AT THE AGE OF SIX.

The Work Done by Margaret F. Mauro, Now 16 Years Old-Her Education at Home, Her Instinctive Turn to Rhyme, and Her Childish Love for Bolls. In the midsummer St. Nicholds there appeared seven poems by a girl of 12 years. The author is little Margaret Frances Mauro of Washington, D. C., now in her fourteenth year.

Her "Sonnet to a Purple Pansy" follows:

or "Sonnet to a Furple Pansy" follows:

O lovely flower, lovellest of thy kind,
Falr as the purple cloud that sunset decks,
A beauteons blossom of thy gentle sex,
A bit of fragrance, budding on the wind,
A storehouse for the honey-exthering bee;
Now covily smilling with coquestish grace,
Now covily smilling with coquestish grace,
Now with a lovely look upon thy face,
An upward glance of grave, sweet purity;
A drop of purple dew that gleams, then fades,
Sets upon earth's green breast another gem,
Then, lifeless, hangs upon its withered stem
Drops—and the grassy woodland delia and glades
Know it no more—forget it did exist—
But in my heart, O flow'r, thou art for ever missed.

Perhaps the most wonderful verses ever written by a child not yet in her 'teens are in the poem entitled "Ye Romance of Ye Oldenne Tyme," which Margaret wrote before she was



MARGARET PRANCES MAURO. 12 years old and had published in the Ser tember number of St. Nicholas. The poem is:

- Yt was ye knighte of ye oldenne tyme
 byd love ye beauteous dayme:
 Her forme was slym, her fayce was faire,
 Esmonia was her nayme.
 Butte wo untos ye lover true;
 For hys aterne father sayde,
 "My son he shalle wedde ane ladye proud,
 An notte ye countrie mayde."
- Harde bye unice ye castle dwelt
 An dayme of high degree;
 I wot she was naye slym nor faire,
 Butte wealthle aye was she.
 She hadde bayth lande an golde, forsooth,
 An palace rych beeayde,
 Then spayke Sir Gundlebaye bys syre,
 "Thys dayme shalle bee yr bryde,"

- One days, when younge Sir Gundlebays
 Wente out toe hontye deere.
 Hee spyde hay gensyl ladys-love
 Her awyne a-lending neare.
 Her checks were lyke ye cherryes redde,
 Her haire was goulden-browne;
 She were uponne her gensyl hedde
 An rose turned uppe-syde-downe;

- "O hayste thee, love," cried Gundlebays,
 Ynne lowe butte earneste tone:
 "Mye syre ys rydeng fast beehynde,
 An wee muste soone bee gone:
 Hys mobiemen ryde at hys heel,
 Thy ryval at hys toe:
 O hayste thee, hayste thee, whyle wee maye—
 Hee wyll notte see us goe."
- Then out and blusht ye mayden gaye, And sayde, wyth courte-sie lowe, 'Sin that ye aske, Sir Gundlebaye, I cannot welle says noe.'' Syne he has ta'en her on hys steede, An thro'th' woodes they five. Butte notte before ye courtile dayme Their course had tyme roe appe.

- "Nowe hayste ye, haste ye, noole Sir!
 Yr sonne has fledde i ween.
 Writh she poor country dansel, when
 Hee mighte have hadde a queene."
 Ye word ys spayke, ye bugies blowne,
 Toe boote an horse-away!
 They must bringe back, ere sette of sunne
 Ye younge Sir Gundlebaye.
- When Io!—a wonder come toe pass!
 Ve swyne left bye ye waye,
 Wroth at their mistress leeve, thronged round
 The syre of Gundlebaye.
 Recardless of hys sterne-volet "Scat!"
 An of ava noble bloode,
 They vext hys horse, unityl hee throw
 Hym cleene off in ye mudde!

- Wherat soe wrathy was ve syre
 Hee should see meenetle fare.
 Hys princely dignitie was snock!
 Weinye beyonde repayre.
 Fayne wood hee have dyslodg'd hys feets.
 Fayne chang'd hys garments wette.
 Still dyd hee styck-for aucht in one
 Hee mayee bee stuck there yet!

 How a feet of the styck of the styck for aucht in the styck
- Howe faires vt with ye knight an daym Aye holde that field le that daye? Together doe they safely byde Yn a havenne bye ye waye. Ye guests are gone, ye vows be sayde, Ye priest has ta'en bys fee. Ye bryde an groom, O maye they live Full tong an happille!
- It will be noticed that, besides the almost ab-

solute perfection of the rhyme, and the simple solute perfection of the rhyme, and the simple music of the verses, the spelling, the syntactical form of the lines are true to the genius of ancient English. And yet this little poet, whose years preclude the idea of any extensive excursions into the literature of earlier times, is unable to tell when or where she got the ideas for the poem. Although not precoclous in any other way Margaret has been writing verses since she was six years old. She is the daughter of l'hillp Mauro, a patent lawyer, and all the years of her young life, except one, when she was abroad, have been passed in Washington. The child never went to school, except at infrequent intervals, as her mother preferred to educate her according to her own ideas of what a little girl should learn. At home, where she was surrounded by her flowers and her toys, Margaret's poetical nature expanded. From the time when she was taught to hold a pen her natural inclination was toward the writing of verses, which, crude at first, fradually took on rhyme and rhythm. The flowers, the birds, the books which she read and the trifling incidents of her every day life suggested to her the ideas which she expressed in childish rhyme. Even her daily hour of plano practice, which, with the instinct of a healthy child, she thoroughly haded, furnished her the theme for a poem which she called "The Monater 'Practising." The editor of that magazine: "Some of our young readers may have music of the verses, the spelling, the syntactical

A shadow on the grass suggested these lines, which Margaret wrote several years ago:

- O dainty little Shadow.
 O coy. delusive Shadow:
 O fickie piantoin of the lightsome air!
 One moment swift careering
 Aeross the sunny meadow.
 Then, fitting, disappearing—
 Who gnows where?
- Toward thee bend the grasses.
 The tail, tail meadow grasses.
 As if to hold thy flitting faces still;
 Now o'er them ling-ring, brooding.
 Thou temptest their caresses.
 Then darlest off, ciuding—
 Mocking still.

), merry, merry Shadow. Dance gally with thy playmate sephyr now, For oh! the sparkling river. The sunshine on the meadow. They will not last forever— Nor will thou!

When the girl was in her thirteenth year her mother took her abroad for a course in French. After the sorrow of parting with her father, her chief concern as she walked up the gang plank of the ocean steamer was for the large doil which she carried in her arms. When she returned recently she brought with her in a cave a green parequet of which she is very fond. The publication of her poems was never dreamed of until her father, struck by the sparent beauty and smoothness of the lines of Ye Riomance of Ye Oldenne Tyme, "sent them to the editor of St. Nicholas for an opinion as to their poetical merit. The answer was warm braise for Margaret's genus and an offer to publish the child's best poems.

Louise Michel to Tour the United States. John Most announced yesterday that Louise Michel, the French Anarchist, would soon undertake a tour of the United States and Canada in the interest of her political theories, she will be accompanied by Charlotte Vanville, and the arrangements for the tour are being perfected by Fletro Gori and Jean Francis Marat. The French women will start from London. The date of their departure has not been fixed. The Anarchists in this country will give a big reception in their honor on their arrival here.

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NEW YORK'S DENSE POPULATION. More Inhabitants to the Acre Here Than in

The municipal authorities of Paris have ust completed the official enumeration of the population of the French capital, which they find to be 2,500,000. Such a computation is made every five years, and that of 1891 showed the population of Paris to be 2,447,957. The French system of taking a census is characterized by method and precision, for it is not based on a haphazard report of the number of residents of the city at a stated time, but is reached in a very different and more satisfactory way. Firs: of all, the enumeration of the inhabitants at the last preceding census is taken, and to this is added the number of children born within the city-the French birth statistics are inflexibly exact and from it is deducted the number of deaths, these being also an exact quantity, but no more so than is the case in New York, where no serious errors in the death rate are possible. though the birth-rate figures are sometime

though the birth-rate figures are sometimes misleading and incomplete. In addition to these two items of information, the local authorities of French cities and communes have an exact record of the newcomers from other places, whether translents or permanent residents, and of those who leave; and a census under these circumstances is not, therefore, an enumeration, but a compilation of figures previously obtained.

The area of the city of Parls is 20,000 acres, and the average population to the acre is, therefore, 125. A steady gain in the density of population has been in progress for some years in Parls, and it is pretty well distributed throughout the town, more evenly, in fact, than is the case in either London or New York. What is known as the arrondissement of the Temple is the most thickly populated section of Parls, and it has 300 persons to the acre. How this compares with the density of population in the city of New York is shown by the following: By the last figures of the Board of Heaith, based on the enumeration of April, 1895, the present population of the Tenth ward of this city is 70, 168.

density of population in the city of New York is shown by the following: By the last figures of the Board of Health, based on the enumeration of April, 1895, the present population of the Tenth ward of this city is 70,168. The area of this ward is 110 acres, and the population to the acre is, therefore, 637, besides which the density of population in the most congested region of Paris seems almost unimportant.

The population of the Tenth ward has increased from 60,000 to 70,000 within the last ten years, and the population to the acre has been steadily rising, of course; nor is there any diminution of it now. The Seventh warn of this city, with an acreage of 290, has a poulation of 75,000, or 375 to the acre. London is justly entitled to precedence as the largest city in the world, not merely in population but in area as well. The distinction between the two is sometimes overlooked. It is customary in some cities to roughly annex all the available sulurban territory, while other cities adhere to ordinary geographical lines. The city of Chicago is three times as large in area as New York, but the actual population of Chicago, despite the absurd claims to the contrary of some Chicago enthusiasts, is materially less. New York has an acreace of 28,000, and is larger than Paris with 20,000. Bellin with 16,000, and Vienna with 13,700. The Iwenty-fourth ward of New York forming the northern boundary of the city, includes more than one-third of the total area of the town, but it had by the last enumeration less than parties of the contrary of population, or about the same as the Fourteenth ward with an area of nuctv-six acres, while the Twenty-fourth covers 10,000 acres. This detail is important, for persons examining the matter superficially and not making allowance for the extent of the unsettled and undeveloped Twenty-fourth word, fail to realize how dense is the population of New York count only to London, but not materially nearer than it was five years ago. The total population of the Greater New York will put t

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POSTAL BUSINESS COMPARED

Eaglish Receipts Pretty High, but American Receipts Much Higher. The official report of the English Postmas

ter-General shows a large increase in the postal business of the United Kingdom, but compared with the figures of the United States the British statistics fail to show a gain large enough to indicate any challenge to the supremacy of the United States among nations In postal matters. The revenue of the English Post Offices, which includes also the revenue from telegrams, a Government monopoly in \$70,000,000 last year. From actual and exclusive Post Office business the English Government received last year \$55. 000,000, whereas the revenue of the American Post Office Department for the same year was \$76,000,000. The postal revenue of Germany, according to the last official figures at hand. was \$60,000,000 for the year covered, this including the Government telegraph service which in the United States is in private hands. and also a considerable express business. The receipts of the American telegraph companies are in excess of \$25,000,000 a year, and if selded to the postal receipts, as is the case in England and Germany, would send the total far above anything which the most sanguing

European computer could hope to reach. There are 70,000 Post Offices in the United States against 20,000 in Great Britain, 25,000 in Germany, 7,000 in France, 9,000 in Austro Hungary, and 6,000 in Italy. The compact ness of the population in England enables the Post Office Department there to operate business at a minimum expense, for the fact is well known that in thickly populated countries of States the Post Office business of any Governmen can be conducted at a profit; it is the scat tered settlements and mail wayon routes that entail the losses. The New York city Por Office, for instance, yields the Government of profit of \$4,000,000 a year, the Post Office bust profit of \$4,000,000 a year, the Post Office business of the States of Massachusetts \$1,500,000, and Pennsylvania and Illinois \$1,000,000 each, but in a majority of the States there is a loss, \$500,000 in Kansas, \$700,000 in Iowa. \$1,250,000 in Nebraska, \$100,000 in Nevada (the total receipts in that State are less than \$70,000), \$150,000 in Arizona, \$200,000 in In Alabam, \$200,000 in Marizona, \$200,000 in Texas, \$5500,000 in Marizona, \$350,000 in Wyoming, where the receipts are less than \$100,000; \$750,000 in Wyoming, where the receipts are less than \$100,000. The net loss on the Post Office business of the United States amounted last year to \$10,000,000, the shortage being made up by appropriations from the Treasury which have a veraged in recent years about \$5,000,000, on 1882, 1883, and 1864 the postal revenues of the United States came nearer being sufficient to meet the excenses than at any previous time since the close of the civil war. In 1884, indeed, the Government made a profit from its Post Office business.

It is not to be inferred from this that the postal business of the United States is unskilfully managed, for the opposite of this proposition is true. The fact is that the American theory of Post Office matters is predicated on the idea that this item of revenue is not to be regarded as a Government menopoly managed for grain, but as a public convenience conductness of the State of Massachusetts \$1 500 000

sition is true. The fact is that the American theory of Post Office matters is predicated on the idea that this item of revenue is not to be regarded as a Government menopoly managed for gain, but as a public convenience conducted by the Government with that end in view. The Government handles and delivers letters, packages, newspapers, postal cards, and transacts a large business in money orders as a convenience to the people of the United States without any notion of profit, for so soon as the revenues exceed the receipts the Government proceeds to cut down the rates. By this plan the uniform two-cent postage rate has been reached, and ultimately, Post Office officials expect, there will be a uniform one-cent rate for mail matter throughout the United States. In European countries a different view prevails. They run their Post Office departments as a source of revenue, and include generally the telegraph, and in Germany the telephone, service in order to add to the profit. In England there is in addition the savings-bank system the English Post Office Department receiving cash detosits for individuals, the gross amount of which is now nearly \$500,000,000. While there was a loss on the American Post Office Department of \$10,000,000 last year, the profit in the English Post Office Department for the same period was \$15,000,000, and other countries of Europe made a profit from the Post Office, too. The net revenue in Austro-Hungary was \$5,000,000. In Hussia \$1,000,000, and the profit in France was greater than in either of the other two, \$7,500,000. The railway-telegranh system of France is under the direction of the French Post Office Department, and yields a considerable revenue. In Italy there has been since 1875 a system of Post Office savings banks, the lowest amount taken in which is one lire '20 cents). Interest is paid on these postal deposits at the rate of 354 per cent. There is \$40,000,000 on deposit in the postal savings banks of Italy.

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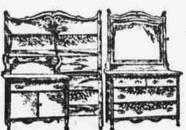
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A BLOW AND A KNIFE THRUST.

Outcome of a Row Between Two Jealous

Italian Women.

120

A woman's quarrel in Monroe street on Friday afternoon led to a stabbing in the evening and now one woman's husband is a fugitive from Gouveneur Hospital hovering between life and Monroe street which lies between Corlears street and Jackson street, where all the res dents are Italians. Among these were Salvatore Despino and Barno Commorone. Despino is 42 years old and was a driver for the Street Cleaning Department. He has

wife and two children, and it is said that he has savings amounting to \$5,000 or \$6,000 in the avings banks of this city. Commorone is a laborer. He has a wife and one child.

savings banks of this city. Commorone is a laborer. He has a wife and one child. He lives in a rear house at 301, where none of the tenants has paid rent for a year because of the death of the owner at that time and litigation over the property ever since. Despino lives at 307.

Some time in the afternoon on Friday Mrs. Despino and Mrs. Commorone met in the street and had a quarrel. Jealousy was the cause. In the evening Commorone strolled along to the cobbler shop next door to Despino's house, and, taking a chair out of the shop to the sidewalk, sat down there to gossip. His wife and a number of other persons were there when Despino and his wife joined the group. There is a tangle of stories told by those present as to just how the quarrel between the men began, in which a bottle of whiskey and a stick figure, but with no especial importance. Suddenly, however, according to what Acting Police Captain Titus of the Delancey street station has learned, Mrs. Despino threw herself-upon Commorone as if to bug him in affection, and Despino sprang forward and struck him. First he struck a fist blow in the face and then innged at the side. Blood followed the side blow and Despino field, while the women supported Commarone and screamed for help. Despino disappeared down toward the Grand Street Ferry.

No one liad seen a knife in his band, but it is

Despino disappeared down toward the trans Street Ferry.

No one had seen a knife in his hand, but it is believed he had one concealed up his sleeve, and that he carried it off with him. The blade entered Commorone's left side and made a wound an inch wide and three inches deep. An operation was performed upon him at Gouver-neur Hospital that night, but he has a slim hance to recover. Mrs. Despino was taken to the Delancey street HIS KNIFE BETRAYED HIM

Richards Used It to Open a Jewel Case and Thomas A. Richards, 29 years old, a colored West Indian, and employed as a bell boy at the St. Cloud Hotel, Broadway and Forty-second street, was arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday morning by Detectives Wolf and yesterday morning by Detectives Wolf and Hunt of the West Thirtieth street station on a charge of larceny preferred by Jacob Bilhelmer, a contractor living at the hotel. On Friday Bilhelmer and his wife left the hotel for a while to take a walk and gave the key to the prisoher. When they returned they found that some one had been in the room and had forced open a leather lewel case with a lackknife and that \$150 worth of gold and sliver lewelry, consisting of chains, bracelets, and rings, had been taken. The detectives suspected Hichards, and on searching him found some seraps of leather on the blade of his lackknife. The leather corresponded to the leather on the jewel casket. Then they agreated him. In court Richards denied his guilt, and Magistrate Cornell held him in \$1,000 for further examination.

HARD CHASE FOR A THIEF. Detective Finn's Lively Struggle with Shoplifter Caught Stealing Shoes.

Detective Daniel Finn of a Sixth avenue dry goods store had an exciting experience with a male shoplifter yesterday morning, but by his pluck he managed to arrest the culprit and arraign him in Jefferson Market Court. The given or mailed to any address. prisoner was Walter H. Jones, 25 years old, of 152 West Thirty-second street. He entered the store at 8 o'clock, and for an hour wandered about in a seemingly a mless manner. The fact that he was carrying a long coat over his arm aroused the suspicions of the detective, who followed him. Finally, about 9 o'clock, Finnsaw Jones take

a pair of shoes off the counter and hide them under the long coat he was carrying. Jones then left the store, and Finn followed him up Sixth avenue two blocks. Jones became aware that he was being followed

and he turned into a building and ran up the stairs and into a dentist's office on the second stairs and into a dentist's office on the second floor. The dentist was at work, his patient being a lady who had been accompanied to the office by two other women. Great consternation was caused when Jones rushed unceremoniously through the rooms. Jones ran into the second parlor, which was dark, and Finn followed him. Jones tried to hide the shoes and did succeed in pushing them down between the steam radiator and the wail, but as he turned to run from the room, Finn grabbed him.

The two men struggled for a moment and then Jones broke away from Finn, Thinking he could escape with the shoes, Jones grabbed them from

escape with the shoes, Jones grabbed them from behind the heater and started out of the room. This time Finn was more successful and man-aged to get the shoes, throw them out into the other parior, and then grapple with Jones and subdue bim. subdue blm.

In Jefferson Market Court Jones pleaded not guilty and Magistrate Cornell held him for further examination.

CAUGHT A TILL ROBBER. Bradley Got the Thief Red Handed, but the

Policeman Bradley of the Macdougal street station saw three men on Friday afternoon loading around the grocery store of John Strowsand at 157 Spring street. One of them was apparently trying to locate the cash drawer. Finally this one seemed satisfied, and then the other two fellows called the grocer to then the other two fellows called the grocer of the sidewalk and began to haggle with him over the price of some apples. The first man sucaked into the grocery. Bradley ran through West Broadway and into the company of the court for the crept

Bradley ran through West Broadway and into the grocery through the rear door. He crept back of the pie counter and saw the man run his hand along the counter until he touched the cash drawer. Then he opened the drawer and took out \$50 in bills. At that moment Bradley grathed him. The prisoner shouled an alarm, and the two men on the sidewalk escaped.

At the station the prisoner gave his name as Thomas Farate, il years old, of 60 Sullivan street. He was arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday, pleaded not gunty, and was held by Magistrate Cornell in \$1,000 for trial.

Seen from the Battery Sea Wall.

All sorts of craft may be seen from the sea wall at the Battery, but no more striking contrast is presented there than that between the steam canalboat coming down the North River and rounding the Battery, fresh from the narrow waterways of the interior, and the big ocean steamer booming up the bay and river just from the broad waters of the coean.

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Preparations in Portugal to Commemorate

His Voyage to India.

Portugal is making preparations for the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the sailing of the Portuguese navigator, Vasco da Gama, on his voyage around the Cape of Good Hope to India. He was born in the town of Sines, in Portugal, in 1450, and died on Christmas Day, 1524. On July 8, 1497, Da Gama set sail for India, and in May following, having passed the Cape of Good Hope, he landed at Calicut. Prior to that time, European merce with the East had been through the Mediterrean only, and the opening of the water route sailed by Da Gama resulted in a complete reconstruction of the lines of European and Asiatic commerce. There is to be in celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the sailing of Da Gama an exhibition at Lisbon illustrating the contributions of Portugal to the art of navigation, and setting forth her trophies of discovery, which are almost as glorious as those of Spain, and in that period eclipsed those

of any other maritime power.

Portugal is a small country, with a land area one-third less than that of the State of New York, and with a population half a million less than that of the State of Pennsylvania, but it has turned out in its time some celebrated navigators, Cabrai and ha Souza among them. It is a somewhat peculiar circumstance in the history of ocean navigation, which the Portugueses celebration of the voyage of Da Gama recalls, that the chief navigators of Europe have usually been natives of minor kingdoms and without the advantages which would naturally accruse to a representative of one of the larger Governments. Christopher Colombus, as every school boy knows, was a native of discovered fraginal as Columbus had salled in the service of Spain, America Vespuer was a Plorentine who sailed originally in the service of Spain, and afterward transferred himself to the Portuguess service, and then went back to the Spanish service, and then went back to the Spanish service of a second time. Vitue Beliring, after whom Individual among having his business and the should have served under the mayal flag of Russia. Magellan, afterwhom Magellan Strate were called, was a bane by birth who served under the mayal flag of Russia. Magellan, afterwhom Magellan Strate were called, was a bane by birth who served under the mayal flag of Russia. Magellan, afterwhom Magellan Strate were undertaken under the protection of the day of France. Hendrick Hudson was an England as a Warting that the six-year of the covernment of England as a maritime nation that he should have been in the service of the dovernment of Holland when he discovered Manhattan Island. of any other maritime power.

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Louis Feit and his wife, Louisa, proprietors the café 6 St. Mark's place, were arraigned in the Essex Market Court yesterday or charges of disorderly conduct, which grew out of a small-sized riot in St. Mark's place on Friday night, in which Gerry Agent Denbert was

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Felt and His Wife Tried to Keep Depbert

from Taking Their Daughter.

The Monater 'Fractising.' The editor of St. Nicholas wrote of her in the August number of that magazine: "Some of our young readers may have 'skipped' the poems on pages 856 and 857, as perhaps too 'old' for them, or too like poems for grown folk. But they will turn again to them with interest when they realize that these verses are the work of a girl of twelve—the thoughts that come to her from her favorite flowers and birds, and the every-day experiences of childhood. As such, the poems are truly remarkable in depth of feeling and power of expression, and they seem to us an evident promise of a genuine poetic gift." Margaret Frances Mauro is not yet 14; and most of these verses were written before she had completed her twelfth year. Indeed, she has written prose and verse since she was six years old. A shadow on the grass suggested these lines,